THE PERSONALIST

VOLUME I

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John Wright Buckham, D.D., Professor of Theology in the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, is the author of many well-known works in the field of philosophy and religion. His latest work, from the press of Houghton-Mifflin Company, Progressive Religious Thought in America, a notable book, is reviewed in this number of THE PERSONALIST.

James Iverach, D.D., Principal and Professor of New Testament Language and Literature in the United Free Church College, Aberdeen, is widely known on both sides of the Atlantic for his many important volumes among which are The Life and Times of St. Paul; Theism; Descartes, Spinoza and the New Philosophy. Admirers of Dr. Bowne will welcome his words of appreciation, and will hope for further contributions from him to THE PERSONALIST.

Frank Wilbur Collier, Ph.D., is Director of Research at the American University, Washington, D. C., a school which is making an interesting experiment in post-graduate work. From close acquaintance with Dr. Bowne, and long experience at authorship he is fitted as very few to offer an appreciative estimate of Personalism.

James Main Dixon, L.H.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Oriental Studies and Comparative Religion in the University of Southern California, is already known to most of our readers through his contributions to leading reviews and magazines. His Survey of Scottish Literature in the Nineteenth Century (Nelson) has been a notably successful book and a new one, The Spiritual Meaning of "In Memoriam" is in process of publication from the Abingdon Press.

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Manuscripts and communications should be addressed to THE PERSONALIST, University of Southern California, University Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street, Los Angeles. Stamps for the return of manuscripts should be enclosed.

TO THE GENTLE PERSONALIST

WHY WE SHOULD CALL YOU GENTLE we do not know, save that the reader is ever "gentle" reader and we presume that it may be after the same manner with personalists.

¶ Many, very many, who will feel that these words are addressed to them will do so because the set of their minds is fundamentally due to the influence of a great American thinker who named his system of thought—Personalism. If your inspiration to the personalistic view of life is due to that impulse, well and good.

¶ In his last public address Dr. Bowne said something about his work being done. To the students whom he had taught to bend the bow and aim the shaft he left the remaining task.

¶ Since those words were spoken ten years have passed. With the passage of years the significance of his thought has grown upon us as the proportions of a mountain clear themselves with distance. The effect of those teachings, however, can be perpetuated only as they enter into the living thought of today through living channels. On this task many men have been working disconnectedly and fragmentarily. It is now time to furnish a focus for the perpetuation of that wisdom which has meant so much to us. Bowne would have been the last of all of us to wish the slavish perpetuation of his teaching or interpretations for he was no literalist, believing rather in the inspiration which giveth life. Is not the personalistic interpretation of life worth magnifying? Will you do your share by subscription, voice and pen? The line of action is clear.

¶ To other Personalists it may seem worth while to perpetuate the theistic and personalistic type of philosophy. So far as we know this is the first undisguised attempt in this form to provide a nucleus for such thinking. Will you share with us the labors and responsibilities? Doubtless others could have done it better, but someone must needs start.

¶ So this is your invitation to join our company.

THE EDITOR.